

[Mrs. Amelia Devoe]

26695

FORM A

STATE Florida

[NAME?] [?] Stetson Kennedy

ADDRESS 409 West Adams Street, Jacksonville, Florida

SUBJECT Salutation Used by [Bahaman?] Negro in Key West

1. Name and address of informant: Mrs. Amelia Devoe (Negro)

408 Peacon Lane, Key West, Florida

2. Date and time of interview March 10, 1959; 9 [A.M.?"]

3. Place of interviews 1210 Duval Street, Key West, Florida.

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant: no one.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you: no one.

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Informant was washing clothes for Cuban family at the address given. The house of the Cuban family is [silaplisted?], two-story, unpainted, [frame?], as are most of the houses in the neighborhood. House is not equipped with plumbing, but with pump and outhouse, and

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cistern for drinking water. Washing is done in the back yard each Monday morning. C4 - 12/21/40 [?]

FORM B Personal History of Informant

STATE Florida

NAME [?] Stetson Kennedy

ADDRESS 409 West Adams Street, Jacksonville, Florida

DATE April 11, [1929?]

SUBJECT Salutation used by [Bahaman?] Negro in Key West

NAME [???] Mrs Amelia Devoe, 408 Beacon Lane, Key West, Florida

1. Ancestry: Bahaman Negro
2. Place and date of birth: Nassau, Bahamas, 1870
3. Family: married three times, all husbands died. Two sons, one of whom died in Naval service. Other son now lining in Philadelphia.
4. Places lived in, with dates: Nassau, Bahamas (1870-1895), and Key West, Florida (1895-).
5. Education, with dates: no formal education
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates: washerwoman, scrubwoman.
7. Special skills and interests: obsessed with idea of going to California, where her son once was.

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8. Community and religious activities: active in Baptist Church.

9. Description of informant: tall, lean, wears bandanna on head. Legs extremely thin, large feet. Knows two words in Spanish, "much mala" (very bad), which she uses often, saying, "Mella mucha mala."

FORM C

Text of Interview

STATE Florida

NAME OF WORKER Stetson Kennedy

ADDRESS 409 West Adams Street, Jacksonville, Florida

DATE April 11, 1939

SUBJECT Salutation used by Bahaman Negro in Key West

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Amelia Devoe, 408 Peacon Lane, Key West, Florida

The informant, when being greeted, replied: "Fine, fine, super-fine, The best of king, John fine, Henry fine, Brown cotton fine, and lawn pretty fine."

FORM C Extra Comment

STATE Florida

NAME OF WORKER Stetson Kennedy

ADDRESS 409 West Adams, Jacksonville, Florida

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DATE April 11, 1939

SUBJECT Salutation used by Bahaman Negro in Key West

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Amelia Devoe, 408 Peacon Lane, Key West, Florida

The informant says that the salutation given in the text of the interview is quite common in Bahama. The "brown cotton" and "lawn" mentioned are two kinds of cheap cotton cloth, which are widely used in the Bahamas for clothing.

The informant washes large bundles of clothes for seventy-five cents; the local laundry charges \$1.00 for the same amount. She is sixty-nine years old, and seems continually depressed. She feels assured that she will soon be in the cemetery, and constantly talks about being taken there. She would like very much to go to California, first.